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14 November 1974

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Malenkov and Molotov

Our most recent information about Georgy Malenkov, in a UPI report from Henry Shapiro in Moscow in October 1968, has the former Politburo member living in Moscow in retirement after having spent more than a decade in virtual exile on the Chinese frontier. Shapiro reported that Malenkov had recently moved back into the downtown apartment he occupied during his days of glory, after having worked as an electric power plant director in Kazakhstan during the years following his ouster from the party leadership in mid-1957. Malenkov was listed in the 1971 Moscow telephone directory, [REDACTED]

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Shapiro also claimed that Malenkov, although deprived of all offices in the party at that time, did not then or later lose his membership in the party. This contradicts earlier reports that had Malenkov losing his party membership along with the other members of the "Anti-party Group"--Molotov, Kaganovich, Bulganin and Shepilov--not long after the renewed attacks on them at the 22nd Party Congress in October 1961.

Another Shapiro report in October 1968 had former Politburo member Vyacheslav Molotov, then 78, also retired and living in Moscow in the same apartment he used when he was a member of the Soviet government. Molotov was also listed in the 1971 Moscow telephone directory. Shapiro reported that Molotov had recently completed his memoirs, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] That development, along with the relatively favorable biography of him in a recently published volume of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia suggests that he may have been restored to party membership after years of having petitioned for such reinstatement.

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Molotov's treatment by the encyclopedia is similar to that of former President Voroshilov, who though marginally associated with the "Anti-party Group" was never really disgraced, and who in the last years before his death in February 1969 was again treated as a national hero and given great publicity. It stands in sharp contrast to the omission of Georgy Malenkov from the preceding volume of the encyclopedia--also published this year. (The encyclopedia does list another Malenkov, a relatively obscure military hero who was killed in battle in 1918 and after whom a Moscow street is named.)

Under Khrushchev, as part of the de-Stalinization campaign, place-names honoring Stalin and his coterie were changed. The most widely known example is, of course, the re-naming of Stalingrad to Volgograd.

The present leadership continues the practice, instituted by Khrushchev of waiting until someone has died before naming streets, cities, etc. after him. It was not until early October of this year, for example, that streets in Moscow and in Leningrad and a village in Kaluga oblast were named after the late Marshal Zhukov, who died in June. Brezhnev and a number of other present-day political leaders may well be so honored in the future, provided that they are still in good graces at that time, but it is unlikely that any will be honored while still alive, as Stalin, Molotov and a number of the other top leaders were during the Stalin years.

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Shoulder Boards

The attached chart depicts the shoulder boards of the Soviet armed forces. The decree of 2 November said that from now on Army Generals will wear one Marshal's star. This tidies things up a bit as these people have always been equal in rank to Army Marshals of Artillery etc, to Fleet Admirals and to Marshals of Aviation all of whom have worn a Marshal's star.

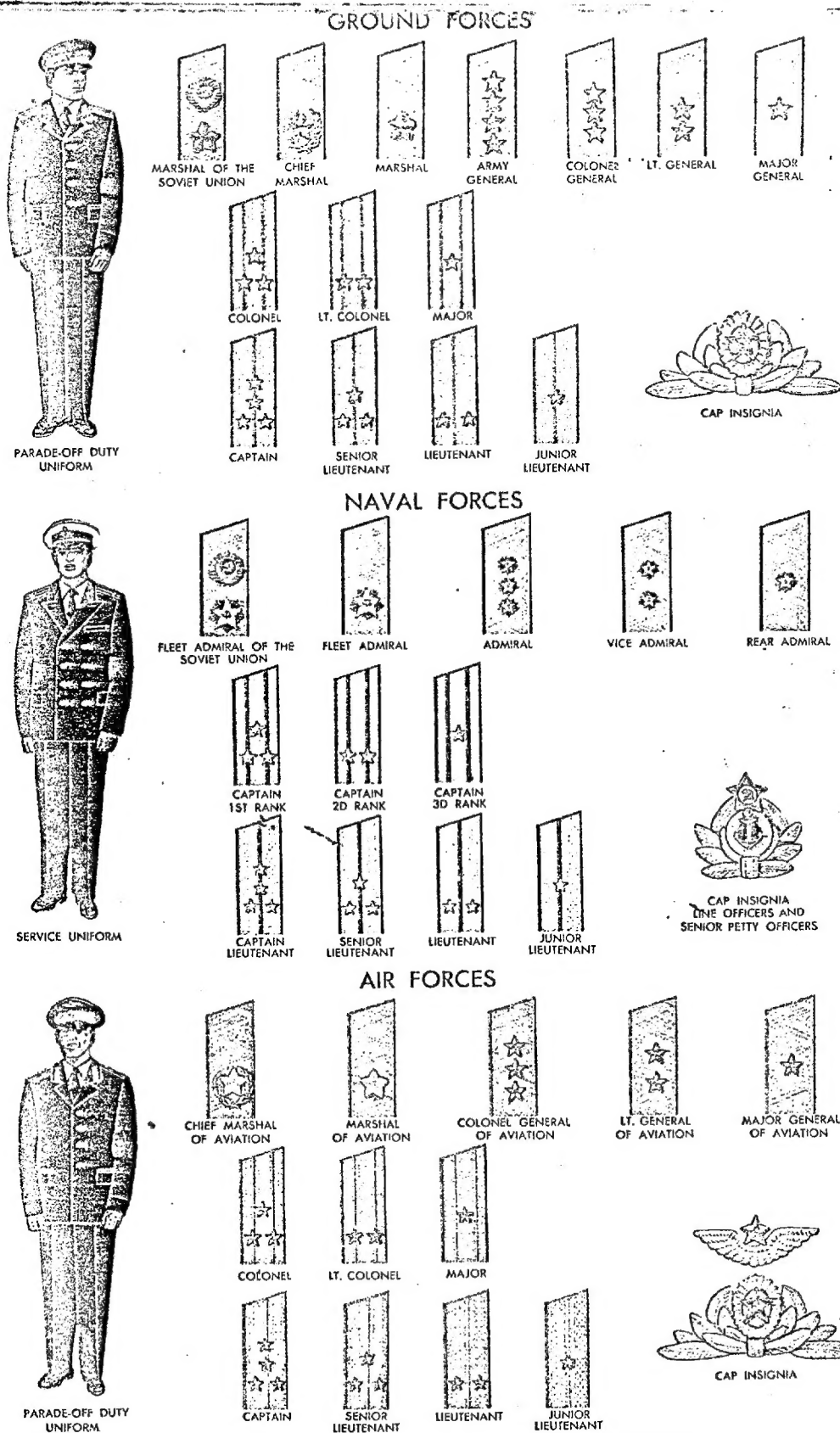


FIGURE 4. Officers' uniforms and insignia

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